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Palestinian Group Names Hijackers

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Oct. 27 (AP)—A Palestinian splinter group said today it was behind the hijacking of a West German airliner two weeks ago, and it identified the hijack leader as a London-trained aviation engineer.

A message to Beirut newspapers from the splinter group, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-Special Operations, contained photographs of two men and a woman it said were the hijackers slain when German troops stormed the Lufthansa 737 jet in Somalia.

Specialists here on the Palestinian movement said they had never heard of the "Special Operations" group. But there were suggestions that it was the name of an Iraqi-based group headed by a well-known guerrilla, Waddi Haddad.

The hijack leader was identified in the message as Zuhair Akkasha. He was said to have been born in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon in 1954 and to have received an aviation engineering degree in London.

The message identified the two other hijackers who died in the attack as Nadia Shehade Doebis, 21 years old, and Nabi Ibrahim Harb, 20. It said Miss Doebis was a Palestinian from Lebanon who had studied economics, and that the other was from a Christian area of Lebanon.

The Arabic weekly newspaper Al Manar, published in London, identified the fourth hijacker as Suheila Saleh, a Palestinian from Kuwait. She was wounded in the commando attack that freed 86 hostages.

The message received here said the hijackers had once belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by Dr. George Habash.

The front carried out several highly publicized hijackings from 1968 until 1970. But it asserts that it abandoned hijackings in 1970, and it has denied involvement in the Lufthansa hijacking.

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